

- Increase the cap from 25 projects a year to 30 projects a year and require the additional five projects to be located in an economically disadvantaged area.
- Increase the statutory ceiling from \$15 million a year to \$25 million a year.
- Extend the program's sunset from 2010 to 2016.

EMPHASIZE AN APPROPRIATE WAGE STANDARD

- **FINDING 11:** The absence of a wage standard in the State's current discretionary incentive programs undermines their economic benefit.
- **RECOMMENDATION 5:** Include an appropriate wage standard in the discretionary incentive programs by incorporating the wage standard used for the current statutory tax incentives, but waive the standard in economically disadvantaged areas to better achieve the objective of increasing the location of businesses in these areas.

EMPHASIZE STRONGER PREFERENCE FOR INCUMBENT WORKFORCE UTILIZATION

- **FINDING 12:** Incentives have the greatest impact when the incented company employs local residents, especially displaced workers.
- **RECOMMENDATION 6:** Incorporate a 'first-source' hiring principle in the discretionary incentive programs.

PROVIDE ONGOING LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND PERFORMANCE

- **FINDING 13:** North Carolina's leaders lack objective data analysis on the state of North Carolina's economy and the performance of the State's economic development programs.
- **FINDING 14:** North Carolina has the available data to better track the performance of the State's economy and the State's economic development programs.
- **RECOMMENDATION 7:** Provide for ongoing collection and analysis of strategic economic status data at the State and regional levels as the basis for economic development performance assessment.
- **RECOMMENDATION 8:** Institute a legislative oversight function specifically to establish economic development priorities and to assess performance of State and regional economic development entities.
- **RECOMMENDATION 9:** Broaden the scope of the Revenue Laws Study Committee to incorporate the study of economic development incentives and the continual performance assessment of economic development incentives and the entities that implement the incentives.